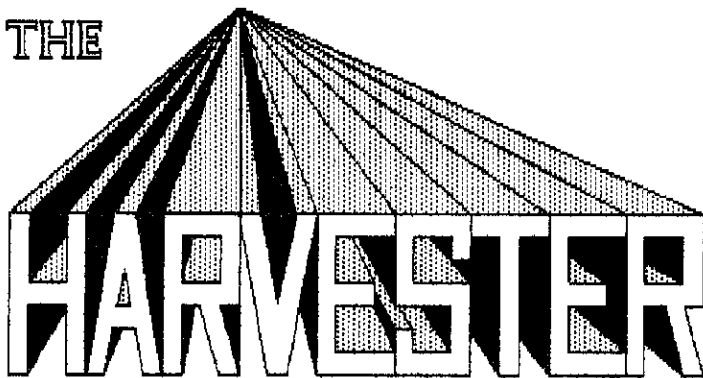


THE



"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)

SEPTEMBER 1999

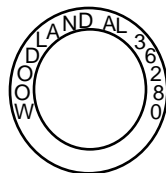
No. 165

A DESCRIPTION OF HEAVEN AS SEEN BY JOHN

The last two chapters of Revelation give a description of heaven. O what a beautiful picture it is. These chapters refer not to a new social order in this present world, but to the eternal home of the redeemed, the Father's house of many mansions.

These are the most beautiful, comforting, and precious chapters in the whole Bible, one that we never tire of reading -- The New Heaven and New Earth. The first heaven and earth had passed away, as

THE HARVESTER
1120 Sun Hill Road
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Peter had said in 2 Peter 3:10, "*the heavens shall pass away with a great noise ...*" and the earth and its works burned up. What amount of change in the physical universe is involved we do not know.

The Bible begins with a garden and ends with a city. It is THE city, the foundation of which Abraham left his home in Ur of Chaldees to find. The church, the bride of Christ, had made herself an adulteress with the kingdom of the world, and then her name became Babylon. But now the adulteress has disappeared, and the true wife takes her proper place. The tabernacle of God is with men, God's dwelling place, the Father's house of many mansions.

In Eden man was driven from the actual, immediate, conscious presence of God. Here it is restored. In this world we walk by faith. Up there we will actually see His face and be with Him throughout the ceaseless, endless ages. No more death, no tears, no pain, no heartaches or sorrow. A new universe comes into being. How wonderful to be there, especially for those who have known little else but suffering here. The greater the suffering here, the greater the glory up there.

The twelve thousand furlongs pertaining to the measuring of the temple was the symbol of God's people, representing the completed, perfected and glorious state of redeemed creation. The name of the twelve tribes being inscribed on the gates, and the twelve apostles on the

foundation may be meant to indicate that the foundation of the city would never be forgotten, but throughout the endless ages of eternity, would be held in loving remembrance by the city's inhabitants.

As John sees it, the city itself was of pure gold; the walls of diamond; the foundation sparkling with the colors of the rainbow; each gate a pearl. The whole composed of the most valuable and beautiful material things known to man, constructed in a city beyond imagination, beauty, glory, peace and eternal security. O how we would like to go there.

Now we go to the final words, the last chapter in the Bible -- The Tree of Life. The garden of Eden is restored in the midst of the city of gold, paradise and immortality. What will we do in heaven? Probably sing praises to God. Would it be heaven without music?

There will no doubt be every opportunity to develop our unsatisfied aspirations of earth -- life growing, advancing, ever onward, ever upward, taking our place in administration of the universe, incorruptible bodies, in incorruptive surroundings. As the Book begins by pronouncing blessings on those who read and keep its words, so it closes in this last chapter by saying, "*Seal not the sayings ... of this book,*" which is a grave warning not to neglect it, but to study it.

He gives here the final invitation. Jesus said, "*I come quickly; ...the Spirit and the bride say, Come.*" It is

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Ray McManus
141 County Road 474
Woodland, AL 36280
Phone: (256) 449-9221

His last recorded word, the parting message to His waiting bride as He passes out of sight. The passage contains an invitation to sinners to come to Him, that they may be ready when He comes.

And now another final warning against the mutilation of God's word. And this final warning condemns men for taking the liberty to eliminate whatever portion of the scriptures they do not like. It does refer particularly to Revelation, but it is also a terrific warning against treating lightly any of God's word.

Now I want to close with this. The Bible is all one story. The last part in the last book in the Bible reads like the close of the story begun in the first part of the first book.

The first words in Genesis: IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH.

Almost the last words in Revelation: I SAW A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH.

Genesis: THE GATHERING OF THE WATERS HE CALLED THE SEA.

Revelation: AND THE SEA IS NO MORE.

Genesis: THE DARKNESS HE CALLED NIGHT.

Revelation: THERE SHALL BE NO NIGHT THERE.

Genesis: GOD MADE THE TWO GREAT LIGHTS, SUN AND MOON.

Revelation: THE CITY HAS NO NEED OF SUN OR MOON, FOR THE GLORY OF GOD DID LIGHTEN IT.

Genesis: IN THE DAY YOU EAT THEREOF YOU SHALL SURELY DIE.

Revelation: DEATH SHALL BE NO MORE.

Genesis: I WILL MULTIPLY YOUR PAIN.

Revelation: NEITHER SHALL THERE BE PAIN ANYMORE.

Genesis: CURSED IS THE GROUND FOR YOUR SAKE.

Revelation: THERE SHALL BE NO MORE CURSE.

Genesis: SATAN APPEARS AS THE DECEIVER OF MANKIND.

Revelation: SATAN DISAPPEARS FOREVER.

Genesis: THEY WERE DRIVEN FROM THE TREE OF LIFE.

Revelation: THE TREE OF LIFE REAPPEARS.

Genesis: MAN WAS DRIVEN FROM GOD'S FACE.

Revelation: THEY SHALL SEE HIS FACE.

Genesis: MAN'S PRIMEVAL HOME WAS IN A GARDEN BY A RIVER.

Revelation: REDEEMED MAN'S ETERNAL HOME WILL BE BESIDE A RIVER FLOWING FOREVER FROM THE THRONE OF GOD.

CHARLIE KIRBY (deceased)
Reprinted from The Lifeline
January 1983

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What appeared to Moses in the burning bush?
2. Where was the spirit of the living creature Ezekiel saw in his vision?
3. How long does God's mercy endure?
4. In the book of Revelation, upon the opening of the sixth seal from what did the people of earth want to be hid?
5. According to Luke 13, how many years did the man seek fruit on his fig tree and found none?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH ...

and remember last month's questions?

1. When the Philistines captured the ark of the covenant, in what temple did they put the ark? HOUSE OF DAGON (1 Sam. 5:2)
2. How did God tell Abram to travel the land of Canaan when God was giving him the land? WALK (Gen. 13:17)
3. What does 1 Peter 1 say causes "heaviness"? MANIFOLD TEMPTATIONS (1 Pet. 1:6)
4. According to Proverbs 10, what kind of person is he who holds his tongue? WISE (Prov. 10:19)
5. What shepherd wrote a complete book of the Bible? AMOS (Amos 7:14-15)

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

- # When in sorrow, call **John 14**
- # When men fail you, call **Psalm 27**
- # If you want to be fruitful, call **John 15**
- # When you have sinned, call **Psalm 51**
- # When you worry, call **Matthew 6:19-34**
- # When you are in danger, call **Psalm 91**
- # When God seems far away, call **Psalm 139**
- # When your faith needs stirring, call **Hebrews 11**
- # When you are lonely and fearful, call **Psalm 23**
- # When you grow bitter and critical, call **1 Cor. 13**
- # For Paul's secret to happiness, call **Col. 3:12-17**
- # For an idea of Christianity, call **1 Cor. 5:15-19**
- # When you feel down and out, call **Romans 8:31-39**
- # When you want peace and rest, call **Matt. 11:25-30**
- # When the world seems bigger than God, call **Psalm 90**
- # When you want Christian assurance, call **Rom 8:1-30**
- # When you leave home for labor or travel, call **Psa 121**
- # For a great invention/opportunity, call **Isaiah 55**
- # When you want courage for a task, call **Joshua 1**
- # How to get along with fellowmen, call **Romans 12**
- # When you think of investments/returns, call **Mark 10**
- # If you are depressed, call **Psalm 27**
- # If you are losing confidence in people, call **1 Cor. 13**
- # If people seem unkind, call **John 15**
- # If discouraged about work, call **Psalm 126**
- # If you find the world growing small and yourself great,
call **Psalm 19**



EMERGENCY NUMBERS MAY BE DIALED DIRECT!
 No Operator Assistance is Necessary!
 All lines to Heaven are open 24 hours a day!

GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>PLACE & TIME</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
Sept. 3 - 5	Bogue Chitto, MS	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
Sept. McDonald 20 - 24	Mt. Zion Church Crab Orchard, KY	James (Woodbury, TN)
October 1 - 3	West Broad Street Wedowee, AL	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
October 11 - 17	Ashlock Church near Celina, TN	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
October 21 - 24	Marrowbone, KY	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)



THE QUESTION

It's not, "What did you do
With tough breaks and paths blocked?"
The question is, "What did you do
When opportunity knocked?"

It's not whether or not
Curve balls were thrown at you.
The question is, "When strikes were thrown,
Then, what did you do?"

It's not, "Were you shortchanged
Of talents when you started?"
The question is, "What have you done
With talents God imparted?"

Peter Tanksley